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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE SOUTH COAST SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY
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The spiny lobster fishery of the south coast (Galle to Kirinda) is a seasonal fishery and operates mainly from mid-September to mid-April, depending on

the on-set of the monsoon winds. The most productive months during the 1985-86 fishing season were November, December and January.

Of the four species commonly caught in the south coast fishery, Panulirus homorus contributed for more than 90% of the landings. Relative importance of P.ornatus and P.versicolor was 4% each. P.pencillatus contributing for about 2% was the least abundant species in the landings.

Fishing methods used include two main types of bottom set nets, traps and skin diving. Fishing takes place in shallow coastal waters extending out to a depth of about 20 meters, usually in the vicinity of rocky areas and coral reefs.

The total length of P. homorus ranged from 8.2 - 28.7 cm while that of P.ornatus varied from 18.0 - 42.4 cm. The total length of P.versicolor and P.pencil-llatus were 14.7 - 21.7 cm and 18.7 - 22.6 cm respectively.